No formal agreements or protocols were concluded following the above meetings. Negotiations for the renewal of the Transit Treaty, the validity of which expires in December, 1998, are expected to commence in the course of the coming months. The working of the additional road transit route to Bangladesh via Phulbari has been further streamlined and is now available for all seven days of the week.

Statement regarding Sanctity of LOC in Kashmir

4047. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Pioneer of June 20, 1998, reporting that Clinton Administration of the US had stressed the need to internationalise the Kashmir issue adding that the problem could no longer be ignored by the World Community;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the statement of Mr. Strobe Talbot, a US Government representative, underlining the sanctity of LOC in Kashimir as reported in the Observer of June 20, 1998; and

(c) what is Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Pipneer of June 20, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government has reiterated that there is no place for international involvement whatsoever in matters concerning Jammu & Kashmir.

India's Representation against Imposition of Curbs

4048. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken to represent to the International Court of Justice and the World Trade Organisation against the curbs imposed by World Bank and International Monetary Fund under the diktats of Individul Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): As all the international bodies/organisations under reference have been set up through international consensus and agreements, they have been vested with specific jurisdiction which is independent of each other. A member country having differences, either with the authorities of the concerned international organisation, or with other member states, will be obliged to pursue it in accordance with the prescribed procedures within the organisation. Thus, the dispute settlement mechanisum stipulated within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), when approached by member states, essentially entertains disputes based on provisions of the various WTO agreements. Similarly, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is specifically limited to disputes between member countries and does not extend to disputes between a member country and some other international institution or organisation.

In any case, India is not taking any loans from the International Monetary Fund. As regards the World Bank, out of the five projects deferred on May 26 and June 2, 1998, two were approved on July 1, 1998 while the others are under examination by the World Bank.

Flouting of Financial Rules by Diplomats

4049. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Pioneer, dated 3rd July, 1998 regarding flouting of financial rules by diplomats pointed out by the CAG;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what action Government propose to initiate in regard to the two specific cases cited in the news-item; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The Ministry of External Affairs are aware of the C & AG's draft paras on the following issues contained in the 'Pioneer' of 3rd July 1998. These are:

(a) Stay of Consuls General in Vladivostock at Hotel on first arrival for more than three years.

(b) Accommodations provided 'beyond entitlement' in respect of two officers in P.M.I., Geneva.

(a) 2. In August, 1996, the Audit Officer, London had raised an objection on the prolonged stay of Consul General in Vladivostock who had to stay in a 'hotel' (In fact, a transit accommodation) on first arrival for opening of the Post and had to continue staying in the accommodation from 9th September 1992 to 31st May 1996, due to non-availability of proper regular accommodation suitable for the representational functions of a Consul General. Ministry of External Affairs, in view of the speical situations prevailing in the CIS countries, after the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the problems connected with the opening of new Mission/ Post, concurred in the proposal. Even when the Officer could shift to a regular accommodation, the accommodation was far below the entitlement, not in keeping with the representational obligations and at a lower rent than paid for the subordinate Officers. An accommodation of his entitlement, if at all available, would have cost a minimum of US $ 4,200/-p.m. at the rate offered by the local Foreign Officer Representation, which itself works out to US $ 1,84,800/- for 44 months.

3. As Ministry was aware of the prolonged stay of the Consul General in the hotel (transit accommodation), the Ministry would be approaching C & AG with the facts and recommendations that the para be dropped.

(b) 4. During the audit of accounts of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, for the period 1.11.95 to 30.9.96, the Audit had raised an objection to the hiring of accommodation measuring 334sq. mtrs. (not 334 sq. kms. as mentioned in the news item) in respect of the then Counsellor and accommodation measuring 328 sq. mts (not 328 sq. kms. as mentioned in the news item) in respect of another Counsellor, stating that the accommodations were almost twice the area as per their entitlement. Accommodations provided to the two officers in PMI, Geneva were hired with the approval of Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of External Affairs respectively. While C & AG's para is based on the space norms, the rentals paid (S. Fr. 6,300/-) in each case, were well within the range of accommodations hired for other offcers of the same rank (S. Fr. 6,100/- to S. Fr. 6,900/- p.m.). The accommodation, in respect of one Officer was surrendered on his transfer. The other accommodation, fact, had only 168.4 sq.mtrs. of usable area, the rest being in the basement which could be used only for storage purposes.

5. C & AG has already been apprised to the facts and requested to drop the draft para in view of the clarifications provided.

Discussions on Sharing of Ganga Water

4050. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2505 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the question of sharing Ganga water with Bangladesh, which is adversely affecting the assured target supply of 40,000 cusecs of water to Calcutta Port, also came up for discussion with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during her recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The sharing of Ganga waters with Bangladesh was among subjects discussed by the Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during the latter's recent visit to India. Expressing satisfaction over the adequacy of flows at Farakka during the last lean season, which had contributed to smooth